

BBC Learning English
Words in the News
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Missing backpacker is found



A British backpacker who has been missing for almost two weeks in remote mountains in Australia has been found alive. 19-year-old Jamie Neale from London disappeared during a hike in early July. From Sydney, Phil Mercer reports:

In a remarkable story of **resilience**, Jamie Neale has been found safe and well after spending almost **a fortnight** lost in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney. The search for him had been **hampered** by bad winter weather, including thick fog, rain and freezing temperatures.

The young British **backpacker** went missing after leaving **a youth hostel** in the town of Katoomba for a day's **hiking**. For 12 days, rescue teams searched for him across **hostile**, mountainous **terrain** and the police admitted that as each hour passed, **his chances of survival grew slimmer**. His extraordinary **ordeal** over, Jamie Neale has been taken to hospital for treatment.

Phil Mercer BBC News, Athens

Vocabulary and definitions

resilience	ability to cope with difficult circumstances
a fortnight	two weeks
hampered	made difficult or stopped or prevented something (here, the search) from happening easily
backpacker	a person who goes on holiday (usually a long one) not with a suitcase, but with a rucksack (with all the clothes and things they need) carried on their back
a youth hostel	a place where people (usually young people) can stay. A youth hostel is cheaper than a hotel. Hotels have rooms for one or two people, youth hostels have large bedrooms where 10 or 12 men or women sleep
hiking	walking for a number of hours or days in mountains, hills or other places in the countryside
hostile	(used to describe land, mountains, environment etc) difficult or dangerous to live in
terrain	an area of land or earth
his chances of survival grew slimmer	it became less and less likely he would stay alive
ordeal	difficult or painful situation or experience

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/8150982.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/07/090715_witn_backpacker_page.shtml